

HOUSE BILL 2401

By Doss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 1; Title 55, Chapter 3; Title 55, Chapter 4; Title 55, Chapter 50 and Title 55, Chapter 8, relative to the operation of mini-trucks on public highways.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-1-125, is amended by deleting the language "and mini-trucks" in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-1-103(c), is amended by deleting the language "'Motor vehicle' means any low speed vehicle, or medium speed vehicle as defined in this section" and by substituting instead the language "'Motor vehicle' includes any low speed vehicle, medium speed vehicle, or mini-truck as defined in this section".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-1-103, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Mini-truck" means a four-wheeled vehicle that commonly resembles a reduced-dimension truck or van, has a cargo area or bed located at the rear of the vehicle, has a total dry weight of no less than nine hundred pounds (900 lbs.) and no more than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.), has an enclosed cab, and meets or exceeds the federal safety standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(g) The annual registration fee for a mini-truck, as defined in § 55-1-103, shall be the same as a Class (B) passenger motor vehicle pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) and the fees shall be distributed in the same manner as for a passenger motor vehicle.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101(34), is amended by deleting the language "including a low speed vehicle or a medium-speed vehicle" and "including a low speed vehicle or a medium speed vehicle" and by substituting instead the language "including a low speed vehicle, a medium speed vehicle, or a mini-truck," in each instance.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Mini-truck" means a four-wheeled vehicle that commonly resembles a reduced-dimension truck or van, has a cargo area or bed located at the rear of the vehicle, has a total dry weight of no less than nine hundred pounds (900 lbs.) and no more than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.), has an enclosed cab, and meets or exceeds the federal safety standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500;

SECTION 7. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any owner or operator of a mini-truck who was issued a medium speed vehicle registration plate prior to the effective date of this act, shall be entitled to retain the plate for vehicular use upon compliance with all laws relating to registration and licensing of medium speed vehicles; provided, that such mini-trucks shall be considered passenger motor vehicles upon the owner's or operator's first renewal on or after the effective date of this act. Upon such renewal, the plates shall be subject to the annual regular registration fee applicable to passenger motor vehicles. Any person initially issued a certificate of title or registration on or after the effective date of this act for a mini-truck which the person owns or operates, shall be subject to the annual regular registration fee and other fees applicable to the titling and registration of passenger motor vehicles.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.